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Free Religious Association. The report of the Proceedings of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting and Convention of the Free Religious Association, held in Tremont Temple, Boston, May 29-31 of this year, is on our table. It is in some respects the ablest and most timely document ever issued by the organization. The programme of the meeting gave especial attention to the subject of peace and to the great practical questions now before the nation, and the necessity of their settlement in accordance with the high demands of religion and morality. The report contains in full the address of Dr. J. G. Schurman, president of Cornell University, on "The Ideals and Duties of the Republic," delivered at the Public Convention on Saturday morning. The afternoon session of the Convention was devoted to a discussion of the life and work of some of the early leading peace advocates of this country. Rabbi Charles Fleischer spoke on "The Common Sense of Franklin and the Vision of Jefferson"; George Willis Cooke, on "Worcester and Ladd, the Founders of the Peace Societies"; Dr. Charles G. Ames, on "Channing's Testimony Against War"; Raymond L. Bridgman, on "Elihu Burritt and His Work for a Congress of Nations"; William Lloyd Garrison, on "Garrison's Gospel of World Citizenship"; and Moorfield Storey, on "Charles Sumner and 'The True Grandeur of Nations.'" These addresses are all given in full in the report, together with valuable remarks by Edwin D. Mead, president of the Convention, on various aspects of the subject under discussion, and make together a very valuable contribution to recent peace literature. Copies of the report may be had by addressing Edwin D. Mead, 20 Beacon Street, Boston, or William H. Hamlen, Malden, Mass.

Professor Virchow.

The tribute of honor paid at Berlin to Professor Rudolf Virchow, who died on September 3 at the age of eighty-one, was one of the most significant and encouraging of recent events. The demonstration, which was held in the town hall and participated in by the most distinguished professors, scientists and medical men of the capital, including many foreign residents, was by no means a purely German affair. In essence it was not German at all. In all civilized countries the distinguished scientist's career was thought of and written upon with the sincerest appreciation, and in spirit at least the demonstration was universal. Professor Virchow's work, both in science and in municipal and political service, was of the kind which benefits all humanity, which all mankind at once appropriates and profits by, and which there is no attempt made to keep as a secret, as in the case of military discoveries. This demonstration, given right at the

centre of modern militarism, is most encouraging, as it was expressive of the deeper and truer spirit of our age, which in spite of superficial indications and temporary reactions is not in its real character military at all. Professor Virchow's work has been in the highest sense humanitarian, done to save and bless men's lives, and it will live in increasing honor long after armies and navies have passed under the final ban of a Christianized human society. He has done indefinitely more for the real strength and honor of Germany than all of the Kaiser's armies lumped together, and there is probably not a military or naval leader in the whole German armament whose death would call out any such genuine tribute as that paid to the great pathologist. The political principles held by Virchow, for which he was twice deposed from his Berlin professorship and passed thirteen years in "disgrace," were the opposite of those of Bismarck, and made him necessarily look with deep interest and favor upon the movement for the abolition of war and the substitution in its stead of a régime of reason and the peaceful procedure of law. He attributed to war most of the evils which afflict society. He was essentially a man of peace, and his influence will weigh heavily on the side of the final permanent brotherhood and peace of the world.

Brevities.

. . . The eleventh conference of the Interparliamentary Peace Union, which was to have opened on the 10th of September, was put off, on account of some difficulties met with by the Vienna Committee of Organization, till the 30th. We shall hope to have some account of the proceedings for our next issue, if the meeting is not further postponed.

. . . Dr. H. Matzen of Denmark was chosen the fifth member of the tribunal to arbitrate the "Pious Fund" case. He will be president of the tribunal. He is professor at the Copenhagen University, Counselor Extraordinary of the Supreme Court, president of the Landsting, and the only member of the Hague Court appointed by the Danish government.

. . . The government of Uruguay has approved the conventions agreed upon by the Pan-American Conference last winter, and also that negotiated with Spain.

. . . The Cuban House of Representatives sent the following cablegram to President Roosevelt immediately after the accident at Pittsfield:

"The House expresses the satisfaction which it feels that the life of the illustrious combatant of the hills of Santiago and the generous defender of reciprocity and the prosperity of Cuba has been saved from the great danger which threatened it."

. . . The cause of peace in France has lost one of its most faithful and long-tried friends in the death of M. Edmond Potonié of Fontenay-sous-Bois, a man of letters, founder of the *Ligue du Bien Public*, and publisher for many years of the *Feuilles Volantes* (flying leaves) in the interests of the peace propaganda.

. . . The eighth annual meeting of the Norwegian Peace Society was held at Stavanger on the 8th of August. About fifty delegates attended. A resolution was passed expressing great satisfaction that the Storting had declared in favor of the permanent neutrality of Norway.

. . . The second national Swedish peace congress, held recently at Orebrö and presided over by Dr. Nilsson, defined the program of the Swedish friends of peace to be the conclusion of arbitration treaties between countries, obligatory recourse to the Hague Court, neutralization of states and waterways, the federation of the nations with a common parliament, the permanent neutrality of Sweden, declaration of war only on the vote of the people.

. . . A bill providing for compulsory arbitration in railway disputes is before the Canadian parliament. It was introduced by the government and will not be pressed for immediate action, but allowed to pend a year for public consideration and discussion. The theory of the bill is that if disputes in a business so widely affecting the general public as the railways do, cannot be readily adjusted by the parties themselves, the public has a right to see that a fair settlement is speedily reached and general business disturbance avoided.

. . . The commerce of the Philippine Islands increased, from 1899 to 1901, from \$19,000,000 to \$30,000,000 in imports, and from \$15,000,000 to \$24,500,000 in exports. The United States got in 1901 only nineteen per cent. of the Philippine exports, while of their imports we sent only twelve per cent.

. . . The French Prime Minister, Combes, has been trying to counteract the possible mischievous effects of recent warlike utterances of the ministers of war and marine. At a political banquet on the 21st ultimo he declared that such individual utterances could not involve the responsibility of the government, which under the parliamentary system could be involved only by the premier. He declared France's foreign policy to be the purpose to strengthen the existing good relations with foreign countries.

. . . The elections in Denmark have assured the ratification of the treaty for the cession of the Spanish West Indies to this country. There is reported a strong movement on the part of inhabitants of St. Thomas for the speedy transfer of the islands to United States sovereignty.

. . . An examination of the morale of army reservists has been made in connection with the police force of Glasgow, Scotland, and the statistics show that the men who are reservists are less trustworthy than the men who have not been through the army.

. . . The *Herald of Peace* says that there has been in England "a great slump in recruits" with the end of the war. One recruiting sergeant declared that business had grown "bad," that it had "not been so bad for a long time." The cause? "Oh, I expect everybody got sick of the war. The guilt came off the gingerbread. We've got small (recruiting) dépôts all up and down the country, but we find that very often only a crowd of 'riffraff and bobtail' collect and lounge about the place. They're no good to us."

. . . A. H. Fried, editor of *Die Friedens-Warte*, writing from Berlin to the French journal, *La Paix per le Droit*, says that it has been found very difficult at Leipzig to raise the funds for the proposed monument, "The Battle of the Nations," and declares that in Germany only a mediocre interest is any longer taken in military monuments which tend to perpetuate international animosities.

. . . The unfortunate rupture of diplomatic relations between Italy and Switzerland has been healed. The settlement of the difference was brought about by the good offices of Germany through Count von Bülow.

. . . The members of the naval committees of the two houses of Congress who accompanied Secretary Moody recently on his trip of inspection of the North Atlantic squadron are said to be against authorizing the construction of additional warships during the coming session of Congress. They believe that the increase of the navy should be voted only during each Congress, instead of at each session.

. . . Of the six hundred and forty-two disputes between capital and labor in Great Britain last year settled by boards of conciliation and arbitration, some before strike or lockout and some afterwards, twenty-seven per cent. were settled in favor of the employees, thirty-four per cent. in favor of the employers, and thirty-seven per cent. were compromised, while two per cent. failed of settlement. This is a record that proves that arbitration is as fair to one party as to the other.

. . . The Turkish government has given its consent for four Russian torpedo boat destroyers to pass through the Dardanelles, under the Russian commercial flag, with an interval of twenty-four hours between each two, and without any armament or naval crews. The Dardanelles and all other such international waterways ought to be neutralized and made free to all the world.

. . . A difficulty, said to threaten rupture of diplomatic relations, has arisen between Great Britain and Venezuela over the island of Patos, between Trinidad and the Venezuelan coast, over which the former recently raised its flag. Great Britain claims the island under the treaty of Amiens, signed 1802. Venezuela contends that the island was not mentioned in that treaty, and that her sovereignty over it was confirmed by the Madrid treaty of 1845.

The Widow's Curse.

BY EDWIN ARNOLD BRENHOLTZ.

"Oh! what's your woe, my laddie?
And why these tears, my lass?
Come! come! let's go to daddy,
And woe and tears will pass."

My words stirred tear-streams yet unshed;
(Oh, how those children cried!)
The tears they shed for one just dead
Seemed blood-tinged; they replied,
"Our father's slain
On Afric plain;
From tears can we refrain?"